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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Education in the USSR

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [] report on education in the USSR. 25X1
2. The four-page report contains information on various aspects of Soviet education, such as administration; primary, secondary, and university education; enrollment; language used in the schools; and education costs. The report cites several examples of Soviet exploitation of schools and libraries for propaganda purposes.

Comments

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1. Reference paragraph 1 of attachment, there is no USSR Ministry of Education, and the USSR Ministry of Higher Education has no direct control over general schools. The autonomy of the republic ministries is only relative, however, as schools are subject to decrees of the CPSU Central Committee and of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.
2. Reference paragraph 2 of attachment, under the Sixth Five-Year Plan, universal ten-year schooling is to be effected by 1960.
3. Reference paragraph 7 of attachment, there are 33 universities in the USSR according to available information of 2 August 1956. ILLEGIB

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U.S.S.R.SocialEducation in the U.S.S.R.1. Schools and Students.

Every Soviet Republic has its own Ministry of Education and there is no single educational administration in which the educational affairs of the sixteen Republics are centralised. What actually happens is that the Moscow administration sends an overall programme to all the Republics and deals on these lines with kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, as well as directing the running of the universities.

2. In Russia there is compulsory education for everybody up to the 7th grade. This scheme started in 1951, and is gradually being extended from big cities to the smaller towns and villages. Students of the elementary schools have the option of going in for a craft and are sent to the appropriate schools.

3. The following figures were provided:

4 year course schools...	108800
7 year course schools.....	58700
10 year course schools.....	26900

These figures are for the whole of the Soviet Union. The number of students are:

In the 4 year course schools.....	13,600,000
In the 7 year course schools.....	9,600,000
In the 10 year course schools.....	5,250,000

4. By 1960 it was confidently expected that enough schools would have been built to deal with a further four million students and plans were being made to overcome the difficulty of training enough teachers to keep pace with the programme.

5. Budget.

The entire budget of the U.S.S.R. was 569,634,972,000 roubles of which 72,800,000,000 roubles were devoted to education. One third of the budget for education is devoted to the Russian Republic as distinct from the others.

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School books are in the vernacular language of each Republic, though the Russian alphabet has been adopted. The students start learning Russian at a very early age.

7. Universities.

There are 35 universities in the U.S.S.R., each comprising a large number of faculties and institutes.

8. At Leningrad University there are 11,000 students, 700 of whom come from Eastern Europe, North Korea, Vietnam and Finland. There are also 2,000 students attending evening classes. There are about 200 people on the teaching staff and 550 on the technical and scientific staff. The University has thirteen faculties: Mathematics, Technical, Physics, Chemistry, 2 branches of Geology, History, Geography, Philosophy, Economics, Literature, Oriental Studies, Law and Foreign Languages. A man by the name of Budrov Aleksandr NIKOLAEVICH is Head of the Persian Section of the Oriental Studies.

9. There are two universities in UZBEKISTAN, one in TASHKENT and the other in SAMARKAND. The Academy of Science in UZBEKISTAN comprises twenty-six institutes.

10. Cost of Education for Students.

The average Soviet family finds it very difficult to pay for all the books needed by their children, and the so-called Government Subsidy is no more than a fallacy because it only applies to families with more than four children. During a visit to the Lenin Library Museum hundreds and hundreds of ten and twelve-year-old children were seen to be busily taking notes from school books which their parents could not afford to buy for them. The universities, however, do provide a personal assistance grant of 300 to 400 roubles a month, out of which the student must buy his own books.

11. Propaganda in Schools and Universities.

The Soviet Regime is paying particular attention to the mental and physical training of young children and every town is provided with numerous kindergartens and scout headquarters and club houses, known as the Pioneer Movement. The intention of the whole programme is to instil in the minds of the young Soviet generation a hatred for and enmity towards any political regime

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other than the Communist. As an example of this the method of explaining the various portraits in the Tertikov Museum in Moscow to young children can be quoted. There was one picture painted in 1833 by the famous artist Perov showing several people including a priest leaving a house. In the corner of the street there was a prostrate drunken man. The interpretation of the guide taking the children round was as follows: "This picture depicts a religious festival during which everybody and particularly priests used to get drunk and become a menace to the people."

12. Another portrait was that of a well-dressed gentleman having a somewhat delicate breakfast. The guide had this to say: "That sissy there is what they used to call an aristocrat; they wore nice clothes with lots of hair oil, but had nothing to put in their stomachs." And finally the portrait of a hunter excitedly talking to a friend. It was painted in the mid-eighties and the guide's version was: "This hunter, like all the people of his generation, is telling a lot of lies to his friends."

13. In STALINGRAD, the same pattern of political indoctrination was followed. In the spacious Opera Hall the Pine Tree Festival was taking place and the audience consisted of thousands of children, sometimes three on a seat. The theme of the play that was being performed showed a brutal American with a revolver in one hand and a whip in the other beating several Russian workers and repeatedly shouting: "I am an American, I beat, I kill and I whip you to death." The children were all terrified, but in the second act the victimised Russian workers had united and began to push the American thug around. The children were bursting with laughter. Several times the big brutal Yankee slipped and fell. The Manager of the Opera House was asked whether he thought it was a good idea to poison the minds of thousands of innocent children and inject considerable hatred into their minds against another nation. He shrugged his shoulders and said that some of the pictures produced by the Americans about Russia in "Life" magazine were just as bad.

14. Libraries.

In towns, cities, villages and all working centres there are a large number of libraries filled with Communist literature which are very popular. The Lenin Library contains no less than nineteen million books and

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the object is to convince the present Soviet generation that what they have is not enjoyed by the rest of the world. One striking feature of the mental training is the uniformity, as you hear people in different parts of the U.S.S.R. and belonging to different walks of life giving their views on current affairs with amazing similarity. When a number of people at different places were asked about events in Hungary the invariable answer was: "Treacherous, bourgeois elements in Hungary were incited to rebellion by American arms and money. The Popular Government of Hungary requested the Soviet Army stationed in Hungary to subdue the enemies of the people and this was promptly done."

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